

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. Claims 23-31 and 33 remain pending in the case. Claims 1-22 and 32 are rejected. Claims 23-31 and 33 are allowed. Claims 1-22 and 32 are cancelled herein without prejudice.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 23-31 and 33.

35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,714,222 by Bjorn, hereinafter referred to as the "Bjorn" reference. Claims 14-16 have been cancelled herein without prejudice, therefore a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is moot at this time.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 13 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bjorn. Claims 1-5, 13 and 32 have been cancelled herein without prejudice, therefore a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot at this time.

Claims 7-9 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bjorn in view of European Patent 0 940 964 by Lopez Gonzalez, hereinafter referred to as the “Lopez Gonzalez” reference. Claims 7-9 and 17-19 have been cancelled herein without prejudice, therefore a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot at this time.

Claims 10-12 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bjorn in view of United States Patent 6,370,401 by Baranowski et al., hereinafter referred to as the “Baranowski” reference. Claims 10-12 and 20-22 have been cancelled herein without prejudice, therefore a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot at this time.

CONCLUSION

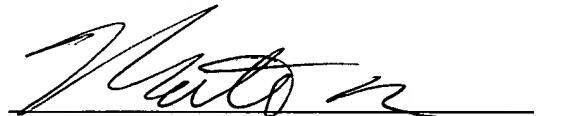
Based on the remarks and amendments presented above, Applicants request allowance of the present Application. Applicants further point out that no contested Claims remain in the present Application.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Examiner: Le, Danh C.
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